

## Message Text

SECRET

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21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 102988

P R 100530Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9280

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSSAG NKP THAI

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 2529

EXDIS

DEPT ALSO PASS INFO SECDEF WASHDC AND CJCS WASHDC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, PFOR, MASS, CB, US

SUBJ: CAMBODIAN RESUPPLY

REF: A. PHNOM PENH 2426

B. CINCPAC 080615Z FEB 75

C. CHMEDTC PHNOM PENH 091200Z FEB 75

D. CINCPAC 0922121Z FEB 75

1. I WISH AT THIS TIME TO ENDORSE STRONGLY THE RECOMMENDATION MADE TO THE JCS (SEE CINCPAC AND CHMEDTC MESSAGES REFERENCED ABOVE) THAT AN INCREASED AIRLIFT RESUPPLY CAPABILITY INTO POCHENTONG BE AUTHORIZED AND IMPLEMENTED SOONEST.

2. IN PARA FIVE OF REF A I SUGGESTED THIS OPTION BE CONSIDERED AS A STRICTLY TEMPORARY EMERGENCY MEASURE TO GAIN TIME FOR FANK TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF REOPENING THE MEKONG LIFELINE. I WISH TO STRESS THAT TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. IT IS THE COMING TWO TO THREE WEEKS THAT WILL BE CRITICAL TO THE MILITARY SITUATION IN CAMBODIA, AND AN ASSURED SUPPLY OF ADEQUATE STOCKS OF AMMUNITION IS CLEARLY ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO HOLD THINGS TOGETHER HERE.

3. SO FAR AS I AM AWARE THERE WOULD BE NO LEGAL

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RESTRAINTS TO THE RESUMPTION OF A USAF AIR RESUPPLY

EFFORT INTO CAMBODIA. WHEN THIS OPERATION WAS "CIVILIANIZED" LAST FALL WITH THE BIRD AIR CONTRACT IT WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY ALL CONCERNED THAT IF A SURGE EFFORT WAS REQUIRED BEYOND THE INTENDED CAPACITY OF THE BIRD AIR CONTRACT, THE USAF COULD BE CALLED UPON TO TAKE UP THE SLACK. THAT REQUIREMENT HAS NOT BECOME NOT ONLY EVIDENT BUT URGENT.

4. I REALIZE THAT THERE WILL BE CONCERN IN WASHINGTON THAT SUCH ACTION, AND PUBLICITY THEREOF, COULD CREATE THE IMPRESSION OF US MILITARY "REINVOLVEMENT" IN CAMBODIA. I SUGGEST THAT IT BE CANDIDLY EXPLAINED IN THE QUARTERS WHICH COUNT THAT THE CIVILIANIZED OPERATION HAS PROVED ADEQUATE IN NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES BUT THAT THE BLOCKADE OF THE MEKONG BY THE KC RISKS STRANGLING PHNOM PENH AND THE CONSEQUENT DEFEAT OF THE GKR IF WE DO NOT MOVE QUICKLY TO PROVIDE FANK THE AMMUNITION IT NEEDS. BECAUSE OF THE SHORT LEAD TIME ONLY A USAF AIRLIFT CAN PERFORM THIS TRICK. AS SOON AS THE MEKONG HAS BEEN REOPENED AND CONVOYS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BUILD UP AMMUNITION STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH TO AN ADEQUATE LEVEL, WE WOULD REVERT TO ENTIRE DEPENDENCE ON BIRD AIR.

5. A USAF AIRLIFT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED NOW BECAUSE POCHENTONG IS NOT UNDER THE SEVERE ROCKET ATTACK IT WAS DURING JANUARY. BUT WE DO NOT KNOW HOW LONG THIS CONDITION WILL LAST. OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT THE KC IS CURRENTLY BUILDING UP AND PRE-POSITIONING AMMO STOCKS FOR A PHASE TWO BIG PUSH IN ITS DRY SEASON ATTACK ON THE CAPITAL. FANK HAS BEEN ABLE TO REDUCE ITS CONSUMPTION OF AMMUNITION IN RECENT DAYS BUT OF COURSE IF THE KC RESUME THE ATTACK IN FORCE FANK WILL HAVE TO RESPOND IN KIND, WITH OBVIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THEIR PRESENTLY VERY SHORT AMMUNITION STOCKS.

6. I WISH ALSO TO HIGHLIGHT THE POINT MADE IN PARA FOUR OF REF C THAT IF THE AMMUNITION STOCKS ARE PERMITTED TO REACH A VERY LOW LEVEL SOME FANK COMMANDERS WILL BE INCLINED TO GIVE UP, OPT OUT OF THE

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WAR, OR EVEN TURN AGAINST THEIR AMERICAN SUPPORTERS. THE NEED FOR THE ACTION WE ARE RECOMMENDING IS THEREFORE URGENT. WHEN WE HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO A SIX-DAY SUPPLY IT WILL PROBABLY BE TOO LATE.  
DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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